



## The Šunka Scouts “Seven Badges for Seven Generations” Program



Šunka (pronounced *shunka* in English) means dog in the Lakota language. The dog has been a true partner of the Lakota people throughout history, and along with the horse (šunkawakan or “sacred dog”) an essential part of the Lakota culture. The Šunka Scouts Seven Badges for Seven Generations program strives to revive this relationship, enhancing the treatment of dogs and other pets on the Pine Ridge Reservation by strategically focusing on youth. Seven is a sacred number in the Lakota culture. Seven is represented in the seven directions: north, south, east, west, above, below, and “here in the center” the place of the sacred fire. Šunka Scouts will complete seven badges on their journey to keeping our families and pets together.



### 1) Water for Life Badge

Šunka Scouts who provide water for their pet everyday earn the Water for Life Badge. Lakota Animal Care gathers buckets from Perkins Restaurants to be used as water bowls which Šunka Scouts decorate and put pets’ names on before helping to distribute to families who need them.



### 2) Hairy Hound Badge

Šunka Scouts who have their family pets treated for mange earn the Hairy Hound Badge. Together with Lakota Animal Care Givers, Šunka Scouts take “before” and “after” pictures to show what a difference mange treatment can make.



### 3) Kindness Counts Badge

Šunka Scouts who complete 7 acts of kindness for an animal earn the Kindness Counts Badge. An example of an act of kindness would be reporting an abandoned animal or helping an animal in some way.



### 4) No More Ribs Badge

Šunka Scouts who make sure their pet is provided with a daily meal earn the No More Ribs Badge.



### 5) Šunka Spa Badge

Šunka Scouts who give their dog a bath and brush their pet earn the Šunka Spa Badge. Lakota Animal Care Givers will help take “before” and “after” photos with the Scouts to be included in the Lakota Animal Care calendar.

### 6) Read to Your Pet Badge



In an effort to encourage greater engagement with the family pet while at the same time promoting literacy, Šunka Scouts who read books to their pet earn points for each book and ultimately earn the Read to Your Pet Badge. Double points are earned for reading a book in Lakota.

Volunteer  
With LAC Givers

### 7) Junior Lakota Animal Care Giver Badge

Lakota Animal Care Givers assist families in providing animal care. Šunka Scouts who volunteer time with the Lakota Animal Care Givers earn the Junior Lakota Animal Care Giver Badge.



Examples of Šunka Scouts already working on the Seven Badges for Seven Generations

**August 23, 2010      Reporting abandoned dog**

John Little Bear and his brother Michael found an abandoned newborn puppy on the road in Wounded Knee. He contacted Lakota Animal Care and the organization was able to foster and feed the newborn puppy. John and his brother and sister searched the community and helped Lakota Animal Care Givers locate the mama dog and the rest of her puppies. The children in the community had named the stray mama dog "Heart". She was a true stray fending for herself while trying to provide for her newborn pups. John assisted in getting Heart and her puppies loaded into the Lakota Animal Care ambulance and they were transported to foster care. Mama Heart and her puppies are all doing great! As soon as they are old enough, homes will be found for all her puppies and many people have already expressed interest in adopting Heart herself.

Photos of Heart and her puppies:



John earned his first point toward the Kindness Counts Badge. Heart and her puppies are thriving in their foster home.

**August 27, 2010      Reporting cruelty to animals**

Angie Hollow Horn and her family reported a concern for the treatment of ponies at a traveling carnival that visited Pine Ridge at the end of August. She reported her concern to a Lakota Animal Care Giver and to the State Director for The Humane Society of the United States. The Humane Society is now gathering additional information so that the case can be passed along to their animal cruelty department and the proper authorities for action to prevent further cruelty to horses. Angie earned her first point toward the Kindness Counts Badge.